13th May 1954]

(*b*) how many of them were from candidates belonging to (i) Scheduled Castes and (ii) Scheduled Tribes; and

(*c*) how many persons were provided with employment—communitywar?

A.—(*a*) Four thousand two hundred and ninety-four.

(*b*) (i) Scheduled Castes—454.

(ii) Scheduled Tribes—Nil.

(*c*) Brahmans—77.

Non-Brahmans—34.

Christians—35.

Muslims—24.

Backward Classes—198.

Scheduled Castes—69.

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS *RE*

(1) MEDICAL AID TO INHABITANTS OF BLATHUR IN CHIRAKKAL TALUK, NORTH MALABAR.

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member Sri T. C. Narayanan Nambiar has given notice of the following adjournment motion :—

' This House stands adjourned to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the failure of the Government to render effective medical aid to the inhabitants of Blathur in Irukkur Firka, Chirakkal taluk, North Malabar, who are affected with a peculiar eye disease in the form of an epidemic, resulting in the losing of eye-sight. ' "

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Sir, about 200 inhabitants of the Blathur village in Chirakkal taluk of North Malabar have been affected by a peculiar kind of eye disease and the disease is in an epidemic stage. When a person is attacked by that disease, his eyes become red and swollen and tears flow from them, and in due course eye-sight is lost. In 1946 such a disease prevailed in this village. The doctors of Madras then organized a non-official medical mission and sent it to this village and the neighbouring villages and the mission did some research. The prevalence of the disease even after 1946 was brought to the notice of the Government, but no action was taken by them. Early in May 1954, the disease assumed an epidemic form. Some doctors and a food expert have gone to the place, and some enquiry was made five days ago. I have received information from that place that they have not been able to diagnose the disease. My submission is that the poor people should not be victimized because of the inability of the doctors to diagnose the disease. It is reported that 20 people have lost their eye-sight, 180 people are suffering from the disease and I do not know how many more people will be attacked. I request the Hon. Minister to take effective steps immediately to cure those who have been attacked and to prevent the spread of the disease."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" This is not a new disease that has suddenly appeared in this place. If the hon. Member gives notice of a short notice question, I shall answer it."

MR. SPEAKER :—" In view of the Minister's reply, I hope the hon. Member is not pressing his adjournment motion. Even if he presses it, he knows what the fate of it will be."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" In view of the assurance given by the Hon. Minister, I am not pressing my adjournment motion."

(2) ALLEGED BEATING BY THE SRIVAIKUNTAM POLICE.

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member Sri S. Ramalingam has given notice of the following adjournment motion :—

'This House stands adjourned to consider a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the action of the Srivaikuntam Police who have beaten severely in Srivaikuntam police lock-up five executive members of the Ponnemkurichi Kisan Sabha in Srivaikuntam taluk on 12th of May 1954.' "

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, மே மாதம் 12-ம் தேதி 1954-ம௵த்தில் ஸ்ரீவைகுண்டம் போலீஸ் ஸ்டேஷனைச் சேர்ந்த சப்-இன்ஸ்பெக்டரும், ஹெட் கான்ஸ்டேபிளும், அதே தாலூகாவைச் சேர்ந்த பொன்னிக்குறிச்சி கிசான் சங்கத்தைச் சேர்ந்த செயர்க்குழு அங்கத்தினர்களையும், மற்ற சங்க அங்கத்தினர்களையும் ஆக மொத்தம் 24 பேர்களை lock-up-பில் தள்ளி அடித்துள்ளார்கள். குறிப்பாக விவசாயிகள் கிளர்ச்சி செய்யக்கூடும் என்ற காரணத்தினால், இவர்களை lock-up-பில் தள்ளி அடித்திருக்கிறார்கள். போலீஸ்காரர்கள் விவசாயிகளை இந்த ஜனநாயக ஆட்சியில் இவ்விதமாக பயமுறுத்தி அடிப்பது நியாயமா என்று கேட்கிறேன். இதைப்பற்றி விவாதிப்பதற்குத்தான் இந்த Adjournment motion-ன் கோரிக்கை."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I am not aware of the circumstances in regard to the present question. I think even the hon. Gentleman is acting on the strength of a telegram he has received. I would request him to put a short notice question. I shall call for a report from the concerned authorities and then, if necessary, we can consider this question."

MR. SPEAKER :—" In view of this, the hon. Member need not press his motion.

" To-day is a non-official day. We have received notice of a large number of resolutions. One supplementary agenda has also been placed before the House to-day."

III.—GOVERNMENT MOTION.

MOTION UNDER RULE 22 (3) OF THE ASSEMBLY RULES.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, it has been represented to me that the resolution in the supplemental agenda should be given precedence in view of the importance of the subject.